

portions of predetermined extensions to thereby provide watertight sealing action with external connection organs, wherein said increased thickness is substantially constant along the whole extension of said longitudinal portions and the thickness increase is non-linear towards the free end of said longitudinal portions.

[Amend claim 2 as follows:]

2. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, wherein said increased thickness is only localized on said outer tubular layer.

[Amend claim 3 as follows:]

3. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, wherein said increased thickness is only localized on said inner tubular layer.

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[Amend claim 4 as follows:]

4. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, wherein said increased thickness is localized on both said outer tubular layer and said inner tubular layer.

[Amend claim 5 as follows:]

5. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, wherein said first and said second tubular layers are colored with different pigmentation along their whole extension or along parts thereof.

[Amend claim 6 as follows:]

6. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 5, wherein said pigmentation and colorings are substantially

uniform and they are differentiated in correspondence of the thickness change of said longitudinal portions with predetermined extension.

[Amend claim 7 as follows:]

7. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, wherein said hose comprises one or more further inner, outer or middle tubular layers, made of plastic material, having technical and/or aesthetic functions.

[Amend claim 8 as follows:]

8. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 7, wherein said one or more further plastic material layers are chosen from the group comprising food compatible, anti-abrasives, UV shielding and ornamental films.

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[Amend claim 9 as follows:]

9. (Once Amended) Method for the production of a flexible hose, comprising the following steps:

a) extruding at least one first inner tubular layer made of plastic material having a substantially constant advancement speed;

b) weaving a tubular reinforcement made of textile fabrics material onto an outer surface of said first inner tubular layer, at the same advancement speed;

c) extruding at least one second outer tubular layer made of plastic material at substantially the same advancement speed of said first inner tubular layer and said tubular reinforcement so as to allow a homogeneous fitting of said layers and form a wall having a predetermined thickness;

d) providing longitudinal portions having an increased thickness in at least one of said first and second tubular layers so as to enhance resistance of the hose in order to favor a stable mating to hose end joints or to other irrigation

accessories; and

e) cutting the hose in correspondence to said longitudinal portions having increased thickness, wherein said increased thickness is made substantially constant along the whole extension of said longitudinal portions and with non-linear increase toward the free end of said longitudinal portions.

[Amend claim 10 as follows:]

10. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change in the advancement speed for at least one of said tubular layers in correspondence to said portions having increased thickness, said speed change being carried out instantaneously and being subsequently reduced to zero along said longitudinal portions.

[Amend claim 11 as follows:]

AI 11. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change in the flow of extruded material in correspondence to the increase in thickness, said flow change being instantaneous.

[Amend claim 12 as follows:]

12. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) is accomplished by thickening only said first inner tubular layer.

[Amend claim 13 as follows:]

13. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) is accomplished by thickening only said second outer tubular layer.

[Amend claim 14 as follows:]

14. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein said